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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2024, the  
2 department of agriculture launched a statewide process to  
3 address key economic challenges facing the agricultural sector.  
4 Agricultural producers and organizations expressed the need for  
5 a unified vision and strategic approach to advance the industry.  
6 The department of agriculture recognizes its pivotal role in  
7 this transformation and has developed short-term actions and a  
8 long-term strategy aimed at addressing complex issues in 2025  
9 and beyond.

10           The existing agricultural statistics program plays a  
11 crucial role in providing agricultural producers and  
12 policymakers with essential data to guide short-term decision-  
13 making and long-term strategic planning. However, the  
14 department of agriculture recognizes the agriculture sector's  
15 challenges with accessing accurate and timely data. This Act  
16 aims to modernize the collection, analysis, and dissemination of  
17 agricultural statistics, leveraging electronic data collection



1 methods to provide critical insights into the movement of  
2 agricultural goods into the State and between and within the  
3 Hawaiian islands, and will include production, sales, and market  
4 trends.

5       The objectives of this Act are to collect, analyze, and  
6 report data on the production, distribution, and sale of select  
7 agricultural products between and within the Hawaiian islands;  
8 provide producers with the information needed to make informed  
9 decisions about planting, scaling operations, and exploring new  
10 market opportunities; provide other decision-makers with key  
11 analysis of production, production opportunities, trends, and  
12 growth; and support the strategic growth and development of  
13 Hawaii's agricultural sector by enhancing the statistics  
14 program's data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities.

15       This Act will fill gaps in the department of agriculture's  
16 role to gather, compile, and tabulate agricultural statistics  
17 and will help fulfill its obligation under the cooperative  
18 agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture,  
19 ensuring robust data collection and reporting across the State.  
20 The enhanced program will expand data collection on select  
21 commodities, analyze trends, and identify growth opportunities



1 between and within the Hawaiian islands. These improvements  
2 will help producers make better informed decisions on planting,  
3 operations, and market expansion, while adapting to changing  
4 conditions. State and county policymakers can further use the  
5 data to better allocate public resources to support agriculture  
6 and the public.

7 These efforts align with the "Go B.I.G. for Agriculture"  
8 initiative to boost local product availability and expand market  
9 capacity, driving broader economic impact. By providing  
10 actionable means, this Act will help producers optimize their  
11 strategies, reduce costs, and expand market reach, contributing  
12 to economic stability for agricultural businesses and the  
13 broader Hawaii community.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to revitalize and  
15 enhance the department of agriculture's agricultural statistics  
16 program and drive forward a key initiative under the  
17 department's "Go B.I.G. for Agriculture" initiative to buy local  
18 products, invest in agriculture's development, and grow  
19 agriculture's scale, ultimately advancing the State's broader  
20 goals for sustainable and economically viable agriculture  
21 grounded in the cultural heritage of Hawaii.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 148, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and  
3 to read as follows:

4 "PART . AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

5 §148- Agricultural statistics program. The department  
6 shall:

- 7 (1) Collect data, analyze, and report on the movement of  
8 fresh fruit and vegetable products, both between and  
9 within the Hawaiian islands;
- 10 (2) Develop and maintain electronic systems for capturing  
11 and analyzing data on the intra- and inter-island  
12 movement of fresh fruit and vegetable products; and
- 13 (3) Establish a structured rotation schedule for sector-  
14 specific surveys to collect data on agricultural  
15 activities, including:
- 16 (A) Agricultural theft;
- 17 (B) Agricultural tourism;
- 18 (C) Aquaculture;
- 19 (D) Crop and livestock losses;
- 20 (E) Farm technology;
- 21 (F) Horticulture and nursery;



- 1 (G) Livestock numbers and productivity;  
2 (H) Producer expansion;  
3 (I) Seed;  
4 (J) Tropical fruits;  
5 (K) Vegetable and melons; and  
6 (L) Other surveys, as determined by the department of  
7 agriculture.

8 §148- Exemption. (a) Data and information received by  
9 the department for the purposes of this part shall be exempt  
10 from public disclosure under chapter 92F.

11 (b) All data collected, compiled, and stored in the  
12 agricultural statistics program shall be confidential and  
13 protected from discovery, production, and disclosure, unless the  
14 information has been transformed into a statistical or aggregate  
15 form that does not allow the identification of the person who  
16 supplied particular information. Unauthorized review, use,  
17 disclosure, or distribution of data shall be strictly  
18 prohibited.

19 (c) The State shall not be liable for any dissemination of  
20 information collected, compiled, or stored for use in the  
21 agricultural statistics program.



1           **§148- Collaboration.** (a) The department may  
2 collaborate with national and local entities, including the  
3 United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural  
4 Statistics Service and Agricultural Marketing Service, United  
5 States Bureau of Labor Statistics, university of Hawaii college  
6 of tropical agriculture and human resilience, university of  
7 Hawaii economic research organization, and other agencies as  
8 needed, to enhance data collection, analysis, and reporting  
9 efforts.

10           (b) The department of agriculture may establish  
11 partnerships with local producers, transportation companies,  
12 aggregators, and distributors to facilitate the electronic  
13 capture of and access to other data sets."

14           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$880,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
17 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
18 2026-2027 to carry out the purposes of this Act; provided that  
19 the appropriated funds shall be allocated as follows:

20           (1) \$170,000 for the establishment of two full-time  
21           equivalent (2.0 FTE) agricultural economist positions;



- 1           (2)   \$280,000 for the establishment of four full-time
- 2                    equivalent (4.0 FTE) research statistician positions;
- 3           (3)   \$130,000 for the establishment of secured office
- 4                    space, equipment, the development of electronic data
- 5                    collection systems, and program expenses for the
- 6                    islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Lanai, Maui, Molokai, and
- 7                    Oahu; and
- 8           (4)   \$300,000 for contracted specialty surveys to be
- 9                    conducted by third-party entities focusing on critical
- 10                   agricultural data needs.

11           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
12 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

13           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2025



# H.B. NO. 1393

**Report Title:**

Agricultural Statistics; Data; Department of Agriculture;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture to revitalize and enhance the agricultural statistics program to collect data on local agricultural interests. Appropriates funds.

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